AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions), while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~) or enclosed in double brackets (e.g., [[deletion]]).

1. (Currently Amended) ~~a~~An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, the apparatus comprising:

~~a)~~ a fluid flow path~~,~~ comprising[[:]] a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face, ~~and at least one inlet pipe for connection to~~ a fluid supply tube, ~~which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face,~~ and ~~at least one outlet pipe for connection to~~ and a fluid offtake tube~~, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, the point at which the or each inlet pipe and the or each outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over the wound~~;

~~b)~~ a fluid reservoir in communication with ~~connected by a~~ the fluid supply tube ~~to an inlet pipe via optional means for supply flow regulation;~~

~~c) at least one device for moving fluid through the wound dressing; characterised in that it comprises~~

~~d)~~ means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation comprising at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path, the apparatus being configured ~~of the wound,~~ such that fluid may be supplied to fill the flow path from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube ~~(optionally via means for supply flow regulation)~~ while fluid is aspirated ~~by a device~~ through the fluid offtake tube; and ~~(optionally or as necessary via means for aspirate flow regulation).~~

means for flow regulation in communication with either the fluid supply tube or the fluid offtake tube.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound comprises~~ wherein the

at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path is a first device for moving fluid ~~through the wound applied to fluid~~ downstream of and away from the wound dressing, and the apparatus comprises ~~in combination with~~ at least one of:

a second device for moving fluid through the wound applied to ~~the~~ irrigant in the fluid supply tube upstream of and towards the wound dressing;

means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube, and

means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube~~;~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to direct fluid ~~characterised in that the aspirate~~ in the fluid offtake tube downstream of the wound dressing [[is]] to ~~aspirated into~~ a collection vessel, and the first device is in communication with ~~acts on fluid from~~ the collection vessel.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path ~~characterised in that the first device and/or second device~~ is a fixed throughput device, and the means for flow regulation ~~providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound also~~ comprises at least one of:

means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube, and

means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path comprises ~~characterised in that the first device and/or second device is~~ a variable-throughput device~~, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound does not comprise other means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube and/or other means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube~~.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound comprises means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound comprises~~ wherein the at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path is a first device for moving fluid ~~through the wound applied to fluid~~ downstream of and away from the wound dressing, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound further comprises a second device

for moving fluid through the wound applied to ~~the~~ irrigant in the fluid supply tube upstream of and towards the wound dressing.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~8~~6, wherein at least one of the first device and the second device ~~characterised in that the first device and/or second device~~ is a fixed throughput device, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound also comprises at least one of means for supply flow regulation[[,]] connected to [[a]] the fluid supply tube[[,]] and means for aspirate flow regulation[[,]] connected to [[a]] the fluid offtake tube.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~8~~6, wherein at least one of the first device and the second device ~~characterised in that the first device and/or second device~~ is a variable-throughput device~~, and the means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation of the wound does not comprise other means for aspirate flow regulation, connected to a fluid offtake tube and/or other means for supply flow regulation, connected to a fluid supply tube~~.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising at least one fixed throughput device.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one device for moving fluid through the fluid flow path comprises a device in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid downstream of and away from the wound dressing.

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for flow regulation is a flow regulator in communication with the fluid supply tube.

14. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for flow regulation is a flow regulator in communication with the fluid offtake tube.

15. (New) A method of treating a wound to promote wound healing, the method comprising:

providing a fluid flow path, the fluid flow path comprising a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer forming a relatively fluid-tight seal over a wound, the

backing layer comprising a wound-facing face, a fluid supply tube, and a fluid offtake tube;

moving fluid from a fluid reservoir through the fluid flow path;

regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube; and

regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube;

wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube is independent of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein both regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprise regulating the amount of fluid with a pump.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a variable speed pump.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a regulator.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, whercin the regulator is a valve.

20. (New) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising:

a backing layer capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal over a wound;

a fluid supply tube arranged to provide fluid from a fluid reservoir to the wound;

a fluid offtake tube arranged to withdraw fluid from the wound;

a pump in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube; and

a regulator in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to at least regulate the rate of fluid flowing through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube;

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound such that fluid may be supplied to fill the fluid flow path from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated through the fluid offtake tube.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a valve.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is in communication with the fluid offtake tube and is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is a second pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube and to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a pump.